



CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOAT



Choosing a new boat, especially if you are a first time boat owner, can be a daunting experience. There are so many things to think about, so the BIA has put together a basic checklist of points to consider before you start looking, and to discuss with sales persons when discussing your new investment.

Keep this checklist with you. It is a good idea to make and take notes on various aspects to assist your final decision.

- **Firstly consider your experience with boating** – it is important that you invest in a boat that you can manage comfortably – *this includes considering who will be assisting with launching and retrieving as well as with handling on the water.*
- **Decide how many people will usually be going boating and what is their weight and size?** Boats all have maximum capacities for the number of people and the weight that they can carry. *Overloaded boats pose a serious safety risk, and they are difficult to manage.*
- **What vehicle will be towing the boat?** There are restrictions on towing vehicles by ratio to the size and weight of boats being towed. *This includes the weight of items being carried within the boat when on the trailer.*
- **Where are you planning to store your boat?** Make sure that you measure the area that you plan to store your boat in. *This includes width, length (on trailer) and also height if under cover.*
- **Where do you plan to use your boat?** This can affect the hull shape – *inland vs offshore have different requirements for hull shape for a comfortable ride and for manageability.*
- **What accessories and safety gear will you need?** There are mandatory requirements for safety gear for various boating situations. Make sure that you discuss these items when discussing your investment. *If you have children on board there is a big range of specially designed PFD's and other apparel with floatation assistance – An investment around the price of an average family pizza take-away meal may mean the difference for your child's survival.*